



REMARKS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The applicant appreciates the careful consideration by the examiner and the allowance of claims 7, 8, 11-14 and 16-19.

The amendment places those claims in condition for allowance.

Elements 17, 35, 53 and 61 have been noted in the drawings.

It is apparent from the drawings and specification that the rims provide guides and strength to the features on which they are provided.

Claim 13 has been corrected.

The allowed claims have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from allowed claim 7.

Claims 7-14 and 16-19 should now be allowed.

Remaining under consideration are claims 1-6 and 15.

Various combinations of Rotondi, Dreifert, Olsen and Goforth have been cited under §103. -

Claim 1 distinguishes the invention from Dreifert and Olsen. There is nothing inherent in Dreifert and Olsen to suggest their combination in the way proposed by the examiner.

Olsen is a sash lock, not used in casement windows, and Olsen has only one moving part besides pins 52 and 68. Nothing would have suggested using Olsen in a casement window operator.

Dreifert's handle 50 and crank 65 are two pieces (column 9, lines 8-10). Nothing would have suggested a plastic lever connected to the main body and to the plastic sliding tongue, as

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in claim 1. Nothing in either reference would have suggested sliding a plastic sliding tongue in a plastic polymer housing, as in claim 1.

Nothing in Dreifert, Olsen or Goforth would have suggested their mutual combination in rejecting claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10 and 15.

Olsen is a lock for sashes. Goforth is a strange multiple channel two-element lock for sashes. Nothing inherent in those references would have suggested their mutual combination or their further combination with a window and door slide operator shown in Dreifert.

Claim 2 distinguishes from the references in the same manner as claim 1 and adds a relatively thick rim around a sliding tongue flat body. That is not shown in any reference or any part of Goforth.

Claim 3 adds to claims 2 and 1 a relatively thin rim about the U-shaped opening, which would not have been obvious from any of the three references.

Claim 6 adds an oval groove surrounded by an oval rim, which would not have been obvious from any reference. The element 42 is a step, not a rim (column 9, line 24, Figure 6).

Claims 9 and 10 depend from allowed claims.

Claim 15 points out a plastic main body and plastic cover not obvious from any reference, a central integral cylindrical bearing opening, not found in any reference, and an operating lever having a bearing extending through the housing, not found

in any reference. Claim 15 points out the plastic sliding tongue, the U-shaped opening and the thick rim around the tongue body and the thin rim around the U-shaped opening, none of which would have been suggested by the references.

Claim 15 distinguishes the invention from Rotondi and Olsen. Nothing inherent in Rotondi or Olsen would have suggested their mutual combination.

Rotondi has multiple pieces with multiple movements. Olsen has a single moving piece. The two operate differently. Olsen simply holds two parts together.

Neither Rotondi nor Olsen is a casement window operator. Neither has a plastic main body and a plastic cover. Neither has an operating lever with a central cylindrical bearing extending through a central integrally formed bearing opening in a main body. Neither has a plastic sliding tongue with a flat body and thick and thin rims surrounding the flat body and a U-shaped opening, all as set forth in claim 15. Neither has an oval opening surrounded by an oval rim receiving an actuating cylinder, as pointed out in claim 15.

Claim 2-5 and 11 distinguish the invention from a combination of Rotondi, Olsen and Goforth.

Nothing inherent in the three references would have suggested their combination.

Rotondi is a multiple part, multiple movement sash lock.

Olsen is a simple single moving part sash lock.

Goforth is a strange multi-channel sash lock.

None of the three suggests combination with either of the others.

Claim 2 contains all features of claim 1 and differs from the references, inter alia, by pointing out the relatively thick rim around the flat tongue body.

Claim 3 adds to claim 2 the relatively thinner rim around a U-shaped opening not found in the references.

Claim 4 adds to claim 1 wings and guide lugs on the wings, not found in the references.

Claim 5 adds to claims 4 and 2 cylindrical guides extending from the body opposite the lugs, not found in the references.

Claim 11 has been allowed.

Claims 6 and 15 distinguish the invention from Rotondi, Dreifert and Olsen. There is nothing inherent in the references which would have suggested their combination in a manner proposed by the examiner.

Rotondi and Dreifert are multiple part multiple movement devices which operate differently, would not have suggested their combination, and individually would have lead away from the invention.

Olsen is a sash lock with one moving piece, which has no relevance to the invention or to Rotondi or Dreifert.

Claim 6 distinguishes the invention from the three references, inter alia, by pointing out, in addition to the structure of claims 1 and 2, an oval groove in the body

surrounded by an oval rim. Neither Olsen nor Rotondi has an oval groove, and none of the references has an oval rim.

Claim 15 distinguishes the invention from the references in the ways previously stated.

Claim 15 points out a plastic main body and plastic cover not obvious from any reference, a central integral cylindrical bearing opening, not found in any reference, and an operating lever having a bearing extending through the housing, not found in any reference. Claim 15 points out the plastic sliding tongue, the U-shaped opening and the thick rim around the tongue body and the thin rim around the U-shaped opening, none of which would have been suggested by the references.

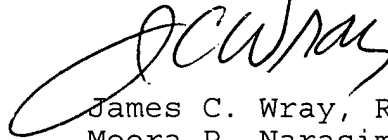
All claims point out new and unobvious features not found in the prior art.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of the rejected claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC Wray', is written over the typed name.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11 and 13-19 have been amended as below:

1. (Amended) Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, a plastic sliding [tounge] tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding [tounge] tongue, a U-shaped opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, a plastic lever connected to the main body for pivoting therein and connected to the plastic sliding [tounge] tongue for sliding the [tounge] tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sliding [tounge] tongue further comprises a flat body and a relatively thick rim extending around the flat body.

7. (Amended) [The apparatus of claims 6, further comprising] Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, a plastic sliding tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding tongue, a U-shaped opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, a plastic lever connected to the main body for pivoting therein and connected to the plastic sliding tongue for sliding the tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved, the sliding tongue further

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comprises a flat body and a relatively thick rim extending around the flat body, an oval groove formed in the flat body and surrounded by an oval rim, and recesses extending laterally from an end of the oval groove remote from the U-shaped opening

8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising curved lugs in the recesses for holding the sliding [tounge] tongue in extreme positions.

9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [6] 7, wherein the plastic lever has a generally flat shaped handle for moving by a user and has a cylindrical bearing portion and an actuator arm extending radially from the cylindrical bearing portion opposite the handle and an actuating cylinder extending from a remote end of the actuator into the oval groove in the flat body.

11. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 1], Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, wherein the main body has inward extending reinforced tubular receivers, and wherein the cover has inward projecting pins for fitting in the receivers, a plastic sliding tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding tongue, a U-shaped opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, and a plastic lever connected to the main body for pivoting therein and connected to the plastic sliding tongue for sliding the tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved.

13. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 1] Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, wherein the cover has an inward ledge, which provides a guide for [the] cylindrical extensions, and wherein the main body has parallel guides for [the] guide lugs, a plastic sliding tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding tongue, a U-shaped opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, and a plastic lever connected to the main body for pivoting therein and connected to the plastic sliding tongue for sliding the tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved.

14. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 1] Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, wherein the main body and the cover have semi cylindrical shaped mounts with energy directors on the mounts for fusing the semi cylindrical mounts together into cylindrical mounts upon application of ultrasonic energy, a plastic sliding tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding tongue, a U-shaped opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, and a plastic lever connected to the main body for pivoting therein and connected to the plastic sliding tongue for sliding the tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved.

15. (Amended) Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, the plastic main body having a central integrally formed cylindrical bearing opening, an operating lever having a movable handle extending outside of the main body, the operating lever having a central cylindrical bearing extending through the cylindrical bearing opening and having an actuator arm radially extending from the cylindrical bearing and having an actuating cylinder at a remote end of the actuator arm, [a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover,] a plastic sliding [tounge] tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding [tounge] tongue, a U-shaped opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, [a plastic lever connected to the main body for pivoting therein and] the actuating cylinder connected to the plastic sliding [tounge] tongue for sliding the [tounge] tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved, the sliding [tounge] tongue further comprises a flat body and a relatively thick rim extending around the flat body and a relatively thinner rim extending around the U-shaped opening, wings extending from the flat body and guide lugs extending from the wings, cylindrical guides extending from the flat body opposite from the lugs, an oval groove formed in the flat body and surrounded by an oval rim and receiving the actuating cylinder for sliding the

plastic [tounge] tongue in the body as the [plastic] handle is moved.

16. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising recesses extending laterally from an end of the oval groove remote from the U-shaped opening and curved lugs in the recesses for holding the sliding [tounge] tongue in extreme positions.

17. (Amended) [The apparatus of claim 15,] Casement window operator apparatus comprising a plastic polymer housing having a plastic main body and a plastic cover, the plastic main body having a central integrally formed cylindrical bearing opening, further comprising complementary inward extending reinforced tubular receivers, and inward projecting pins for fitting in the receivers on the main body and cover, and wherein the pins have radially extending energy directors, wherein the main body and the cover have peripheral steps and complementary peripheral energy directors, which fit in the peripheral steps for fusing the cover and the main body adjacent the energy directors upon application of ultrasonic energy, an operating lever having a movable handle extending outside of the main body, the operating lever having a central cylindrical bearing extending through the cylindrical bearing opening and having an actuator arm radially extending from the cylindrical bearing and having an actuating cylinder at a remote end of the actuator arm, a plastic sliding tongue fitted between the cover and the main body for sliding laterally therein, an extension on the sliding tongue, a U-shaped

opening in the extension for engaging a connector on a window-moving linkage, the actuating cylinder connected to the plastic sliding tongue for sliding the tongue in the plastic polymer housing as the lever is moved, the sliding tongue further comprises a flat body and a relatively thick rim extending around the flat body and a relatively thinner rim extending around the U-shaped opening, wings extending from the flat body and guide lugs extending from the wings, cylindrical guides extending from the flat body opposite from the lugs, an oval groove formed in the flat body and surrounded by an oval rim and receiving the actuating cylinder for sliding the plastic tongue in the body as the handle is moved.

18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [15] 17, further comprising an inward ledge, which provides a guide for the cylindrical extensions, and parallel inward extending guides for the guide lugs on the cover and main body.

19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [15] 17, wherein the main body and the cover have semi cylindrical shaped mounts with energy directors on the mounts for fusing the semi cylindrical mounts together into cylindrical mounts upon application of ultrasonic energy.